

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/957,400
Amendment dated September 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 6, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

R 1. (Currently Amended): An engine muffler comprising a sound absorbing material interposed between an internal tube and an external tube, wherein a projection projecting toward the sound absorbing material is formed on the external tube along almost the entire periphery thereof, the projection spaced from said internal tube.

2. (Original): An engine muffler as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the sound absorbing material comprises a plurality of kinds of sound absorbing materials having different heat resisting properties and sound absorbing capabilities, and is interposed in a state of being multilayered in the direction of thickness.

3. (Original): An engine muffler as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the sound absorbing material comprises stainless wool disposed on the outer periphery of the internal tube and glass wool layered on the outer periphery thereof.

4. (Original): An engine muffler as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising an exhaust air guiding tube provided inside of the internal tube.

5. (Original): An engine muffler as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:
a recess formed by forming the projection by pressing a portion of the external tube inwardly;
a stay for holding the muffler by suspending the same from the bottom portion of the vehicle
body of the automobile; and
said stay being provided integrally in the recess along the projection.

6. (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing an engine muffler comprising the steps
of:

interposing a sound absorbing material, comprising a multilayered plurality of kinds of sound
absorbing materials having different heat resisting properties and sound absorbing capabilities,
between an internal tube and an external tube; and

drawing the end of the external tube;

wherein a projection projecting toward the sound absorbing material is formed on the
external tube along almost the entire periphery thereof, the projection spaced from said internal tube,
after inserting the sound absorbing material between the internal tube and the external tube but
before drawing the end of the external tube.

7. (Original): A method of manufacturing an engine muffler as set forth in Claim 6, wherein
a sound absorbing material and the internal tube is inserted into the external tube formed generally

into a straight tube in a first place, then a projection is formed on the external tube, and then both ends of the external tube are drawn into a tapered shape.

8.

8. (Original): A method of manufacturing an engine muffler as set forth in Claim 6, wherein a sound absorbing material and a internal tube are inserted into the external tube one end of which is drawn into a tapered shape in a first place, then a projection is formed on the external tube, and then the other end of the external tube is drawn into a tapered shape.
